



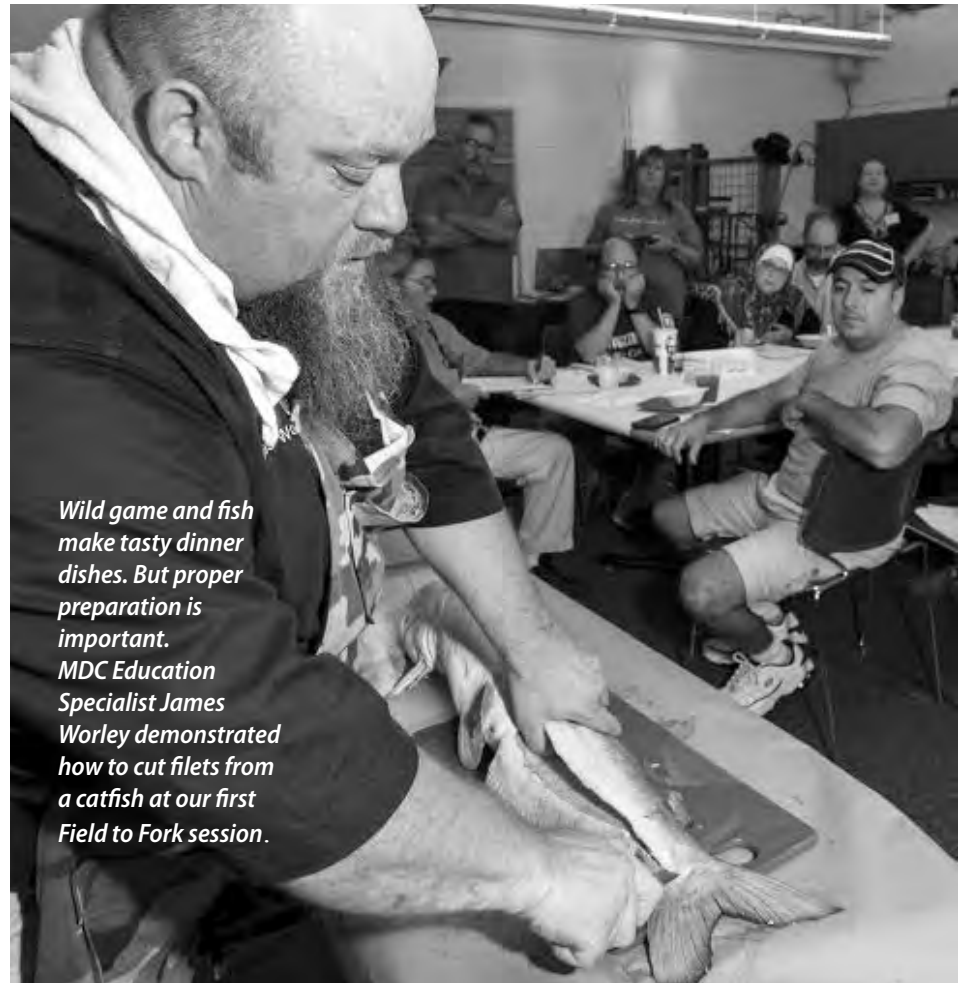
Field to Fork

Get as close to your food as possible!

Many people are taking a greater interest in where their food comes from. You hear the words locally sourced, organic and free-range tossed about with frequency as people dine out or prepare meals at home. Nothing fits those descriptions better than food you harvest by hunting and fishing. The fields, forests and lakes of Missouri are bountiful. Wild game and fish are wonderful foods to prepare for your family!

Get close to your food with our Field to Fork adult series of programs. The series began in September and continues through December. Each program covers a specific animal and demonstrates how you can clean and prepare the meat for cooking. Fish, small game and turkey were the subject of earlier sessions. In November and December we will be covering deer and waterfowl.

After you learn how to clean your game, some of the area's best chefs will demonstrate how to make the most of your harvest. Each chef will demonstrate their favorite ways to prepare wild game and fish in ways that take advantage of the complex flavors and textures these meats have to offer. In November, Chef Craig Adcock will be our featured chef. Alex Pope, Matt Kafka, Rick Mullins and Mickey Priolo will be featured in December. All of



Wild game and fish make tasty dinner dishes. But proper preparation is important. MDC Education Specialist James Worley demonstrated how to cut filets from a catfish at our first Field to Fork session.

these chefs will showcase their cooking skills in our cooking classroom at the Gorman Discovery Center.

Now that your appetite has been whetted for a meal from the field, make sure you check out the book "Cooking Wild in Missouri" by Bernadette Dryden. This book contains dozens of unique recipes for you to use including Venison in a Pumpkin, Savory Pheasant Bread Pudding and Smoked Trout Chowder. There are also many recipes involving wild edibles that you can gather in Missouri such as Pasta with Autumn Nut Sauce and Blackberry Gelato. This cookbook would make a great gift for anyone who hunts, fishes or gathers and wants to make the best meals

from their harvests.

If you have never hunted or fished before, area staff will be on hand to answer your questions about how to get started in the outdoor sports. There are many opportunities throughout the year for Missourians to learn how to hunt and fish. To learn about our Discover Nature programs and hunting clinics available visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/256>

Our friendly, knowledgeable staff can help you gain the skills to procure the meat for a delicious locally sourced, organic and completely free range meal.

—James Worley, Education Specialist
—Stacey Davis, Discovery Center Manager

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's For Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays · 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed Friday, Nov. 13; Wednesday, Nov. 25; Friday Dec. 11 and Wednesday, Dec. 23.

November Home School and Little Acorn Classes

Due to exhibit construction in the nature center, there will be no home school or Wednesday Little Acorn classes this month. Please join us in December.

Cave Creatures!

November 7 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Are you intrigued by the mysteries hidden within Missouri's caves? Learn how these dark habitats give rise to some of the most peculiar creatures in our state, then create a cave critter to take home.

Babes in the Woods: Crunching Leaves

November 10 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required

(babes under 36 months)

There is nothing quite like the scent of fall and shuffling through autumn leaves. Join the fun as we play in a forest blanketed by colorful fallen leaves. This adventure is sure to help connect you and your little one to nature.

Little Acorns: Treasure Hunt

November 12 · Thursday · 11 AM–Noon

Saturday 21 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 3–5)

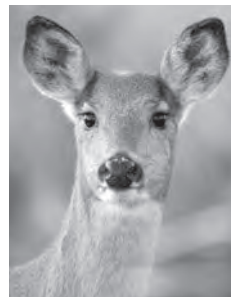
Aaargh, matey! There be treasure on our trails! Come learn how to read a treasure map then set off on a surprising adventure down the trail.

Ohhh Deer!!

November 14 · Saturday · 10–11:30 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Deer are one of Missouri's most popular wildlife species.



During this family friendly program, we will discover what makes deer so unique, then we'll head out on a fall hike to search for clues they may have left behind.

Conservation Kids Club: We Are Nutty For Wild Edibles

November 17 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Let's join the squirrels as we discover the treasure of late fall's bounty from some of our native nut bearing trees.

Nutty Fall Fling

November 19 · Thursday · 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

Winter is coming. Discover the bounty of pecan, oak and walnut trees. And don't forget the chestnut and hazelnut!



Talking Turkey

November 28 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Wild turkeys are an exciting fall sight for wildlife viewers and hunters alike, but their population wasn't always secure. Gobble up the true story of one of Missouri's most popular gamebirds.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

November 28 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

December 26 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

NOTICE: Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area will be closed for a Youth Managed Deer Hunt Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The Nature Center will remain open on Saturday, October 31, but the trails, roads, parking lots and all off trail areas will be closed. There will be managed archery deer hunts on Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area. The Nature Center, area, and trails will remain open during the hunt. All hunts are Monday through Friday. Dates include: Nov. 2–6, Nov. 9–13, Nov. 16–20, and Nov. 23–27.



Holiday Nature Crafts and Smokey Bear

December 5 · Saturday · 10 AM–1 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Craft up some fun using nature-made materials! Come-in anytime between 10 am and 1 pm to complete two 'on-your-own' crafts. Pose with Smokey Bear for a holiday season photo and we will print one for you for free (limit one per household).

Natural Wreaths

December 5 · Saturday · 2:30–4 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Celebrate the season by crafting a natural artisan wreath! Evergreens, pine cones and many other natural trimmings will be provided. Please bring a small wire or grape vine wreath as a base for your creation. Registration begins November 1st.



Conservation Kids Club: Night Hike

December 8 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Explore the mysterious world of nature at night. Many nocturnal animals call Burr Oak Woods home, so nighttime can be very active in our forest, prairie and pond habitats. Join us as we venture into the darkness to find out how different and alive these habitats are after the sun sets.

Little Acorns: Baby, It's Cold Outside!

December 9 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

December 10 · Thursday · 11 AM–Noon

December 19 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 3–5)

No hats. No gloves. No warm fire. How do our wild animal friends survive this cold winter weather? Join us and discover answers for yourself in this fun interactive program.

Home School: Urban Wildlife

December 9 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM

for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM

for ages 6–8

Registration required

There's a critter in my yard! As cities and suburbs expand, we move into the territory of our wildlife neighbors which can cause conflicts. Come out and learn who might be found in our neighborhoods and what we can do that is best for both people and animals.



Soaring Eagles

December 12 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Some bald eagles stay in Missouri year-round, but many more come to our state during the cold winter months to find food. Find out more about this powerful force in nature and discover where you can go to see bald eagles in the wild.

Navigating Burr Oak Woods with Map and Compass

December 19 · Saturday · 1–3 PM

Registration required (ages 10+; ages 10–16

must be accompanied by participating adult) Put away the smartphones, tablets and GPS receivers to learn to navigate through the woods the old school way...and have some real fun! This program will present the basics of topographic maps, a baseplate compass and how to use both of these tools to travel from point to point.

Nature Film Festival

December 26 · Saturday · 10 AM–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Join us once again for an end of the year film festival! This year we are featuring the wonderful fish, forests and wildlife found right here in Missouri. We will also be showing other nature movies and short documentaries throughout the day. Sit back and enjoy these spectacular films.

New Exhibits at Burr Oak Woods!

Beginning in November, you will notice some changes inside Burr Oak Woods Nature Center. Missouri Department of Conservation staff will be preparing the exhibit hall for some exciting new exhibits! Because of construction in this area, many of the current nature center exhibits will be closed to visitors throughout the

month of November. Homeschool Classes and Little Acorns will be cancelled for the month. This phase of new exhibits,



scheduled for completion in March of 2016, will feature The Stream Zone, a living stream with live animals, interactive exhibits highlighting the Seven Wonders of Missouri's Woodpeckers and The Forest Around Us showcasing a full sized Burr Oak Tree in the lobby. Be patient as we renovate. I know you will enjoy the final product!

– Lisa LaCombe
Nature Center Manager

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday
and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Shotgun pattern: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Basic Handgun...PLUS

November 1 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This course continues where the Basic Handgun course ends. The topics of discussion include purchasing and owning a firearm, ammunition facts, cleaning and storage of your firearm. We also will work more on your marksmanship skills on the range.

Introduction to Skeet

November 14 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time!

Introduction to Paracord

November 18 · Wednesday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 8–17 + parents)

Have you ever wanted to make your own rifle sling or survivor bracelets? This class will show you the basics of weaving your own sling with all of the supplies needed to go home with your own creation!

Basic Fire Starting and Camp Side Cooking

November 20 · Friday · 5–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Come join our staff in a fun filled camping adventure! Learn multiple techniques in fire starting and how to safely set your fire circle up. Once successfully starting our fires, we will start with the preparation and cooking of some delicious camp side food. After we enjoy some samples, we will sit around the campfire sharing stories and s'mores.

Introduction to Air Rifle

December 5 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 10–18)

Are your kids interested in shooting but you don't know where or how to start? Air rifle is one of the safest ways to start the youth off in shooting. We will cover the basic safety of a firearm, fundamentals of shooting, and other youth programs available. This will be a fun and safe way for kids and their parents to learn and enjoy shooting together.

Introduction to Skeet

December 12 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time!

ATTENTION SHOOTERS

Lake City Shooting Range will be open on November 11, 2015, Veterans Day, from 10:00 am–4:30 pm. This will allow an extra day for hunters to take advantage of the extended hours to sight in their deer

Modern Air Rifles

In today's technology based world, with new technology coming out daily, it is refreshing to find that the classic things in life still work the best. For novice shooters learning how to shoot this is true. Most basic air rifles, known as spring-piston air rifles, are the easiest and safest way to teach the basics of firearm safety, skills, knowledge and proper attitude.

Your traditional spring-piston air guns, such as the Daisy Red Rider, operate by means of a coiled steel spring-loaded piston. When you cock these firearms, the spring compresses and the act of pulling the trigger releases the spring, decompressing and pushing air directly behind the pellet, causing the pellet to move forward, out of the barrel.

If you are interested in learning the basics of shooting in a fun and safe way, or know someone who might be interested, please contact the Lake City Shooting Range for their Introduction to Air Rifle class.

– Kellie Zurowski
Lake City Range Officer

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

Modern Muzzleloaders Making It Easy

Some people shoot muzzleloaders to connect with the past, others to connect with nature. Whether you enjoy using muzzleloaders for hunting or just enjoy target shooting for fun, there is something in that cloud of smoke that gets you hooked.

Today's modern muzzleloader is a far cry from those of the early American settlers. Advances in the modern science have made it easier and safer to shoot muzzleloaders. Modern steels resist rust and corrosion. They are more uniform and able to withstand higher pressures than those of the past. Removable breech plugs make it easier to clean and safer to unload. Pre-measured powder charges in pelletized forms make loading a breeze. Modern priming systems also help simplify the process.

The best part of muzzleloading is that there's something for everyone. Calibers in rifles are wide ranging. Smaller calibers are light recoiling and well suited for targeting small game. Larger calibers pack the punch needed to take down big game. Loads for all rifles can be fully customized to your shooting purposes based on the powder, gas seal and bullet you choose. For those wanting to take it to the next level, shotguns and pistols are also available.

To learn more about the options available and to experience the fun of muzzleloading first-hand, attend the Introduction to Muzzleloading class on December 5. The class will be held at the Parma Woods Shooting Range in Parkville from 8 a.m. to Noon. Pre-registration is required by calling 816-891-9941.

— Nathan Woodland
Parma Woods Range Supervisor

Creating Cartridges: Metallic Reloading Basics

November 18 · Wednesday · 6–10 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Reloading cartridges is a great way to enjoy your firearms even after the season is over. Whether your goals include squeezing out additional accuracy or shooting more for less money, this class will give you the foundation needed to start making safe cartridges right away.

Field to Freezer

November 21 · Saturday · 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Harvesting a big game animal is just the beginning of the work in providing a quality meat product to your family. More and more hunters are choosing to process their own animals due to the rising costs associated with commercial processing. You might be surprised how easy it is. Join our experienced staff as we journey through a simple, yet efficient method of deer processing.

Targeting Whitetails With a Handgun

December 3 · Thursday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (ages 21+)

Sometimes the firearms deer season just doesn't seem long enough. Each year more hunters are turning to the handgun as a means to extend their season. Join us in this workshop as we discuss and learn about the fundamentals of hunting deer with a handgun. Topics of discussion will include methods to help you get close to game, choosing the right handgun and appropriate ammunition, accuracy requirements and handgun hunter responsibilities.

Introduction to Muzzleloading

December 5 · Saturday · 8 AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Shooting a modern muzzleloader is safe, fun and can help extend your hunting season. In this class, our certified instructors will teach you everything you need to know to get started using them today. Course topics will include the various equipment options, muzzleloader safety, shooting fundamentals and more.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Cooking Venison and Wild Game

December 16 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (All Ages)

Deer and other wild game meats provide some of the best tasting fare available.

Only trouble is, there is an art to cooking it



properly. Attend this seminar for a sample of what game meats can be as we discuss the options and what it takes to cook good game.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Burroughs Audubon Society presents Adventures in Africa: Birds of Zambia and Namibia

November 3 · Tuesday · 7:15–8:15 PM
No registration required (adults)
Priscilla Wilson BAS member, experienced birder and photographer whose photograph of white-fronted bee-eaters in Botswana graced the pages of BirdWatching magazine in June 2015, will present this program that covers a multitude of birds that southern Africa has to offer!

Scout Program

November 3 · Tuesday · Evening
Registration required (Scouts)
Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to Discovery Center and education staff will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants may schedule a free program. Contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov.

Nature Nuts Storytime

November 7 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM
November 21 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM
Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)
Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Missouri Hunter Education Skills Session

November 7 · Saturday · 9 AM–1 PM
Registration required (ages 11+)
This skills session is the second half of the hunter education certification for those who have completed the online course option, the self-paced manual option or through attending a classroom session. Attendees will demonstrate proper firearm safety through hands on skills and take an exam at the end. Attendees must provide a qualifier certificate or student manual with all review questions answered in order to complete the skills session. Registration and more information can be found at <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>

Nature Printmaking

November 7 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)
The printing of natural objects to portray their own image is an ancient art. Come and explore printmaking techniques using block inks and various etching papers.



Nature prints also make beautiful gift bags. You are guaranteed to have fun while creating a beautiful leaf print to take home and frame.

Field to Fork: Venison

November 17 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM
Registration and a \$20 per person refundable deposit required (adults)
Get close to your food as we learn to clean and cook venison. There will be demonstration and hands-on opportunities to skin and butcher a whitetail deer. Chef Craig Adcock of Table Ocho will teach you ways to cook deer meat that showcase the lean and intricate flavors of venison. There will be small plate samples for everyone to try. Registration began October 20.

Atlatl

November 21 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (ages 8+)
Discover the fun in learning to use a spear-thrower known as an atlatl. Test your skills as you attempt to hit the target using this early Native American hunting tool. Today people enjoy using atlatls for sport, throwing for



distance or accuracy, as well as for hunting fish, turkey and deer. Are you ready to meet the challenge? Sessions will begin at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00 and 1:00.

Scout Program

December 1 · Tuesday · Evening
Registration required (Scouts)
Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to Discovery Center and education staff will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants may schedule a free program. Contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov to schedule a program.

The Beauty and Bounty of Nature

Discovering the beauty and bounty of nature during the months of November and December is as simple as taking a walk through your backyard or hiking a trail in the Kansas City area. As the color of fall transitions to the crisp cold days of winter there is nothing more rewarding than spotted colorful cardinals huddling together in bushes or observing squirrels scurrying to stock up on acorns.

The Discovery Center will have educational exhibits during November and December that help capture nature's beauty and bounty. Stop in to enjoy Audubon bird prints in the art hallway. These beautiful paintings will showcase some of the well-known birds in our area along with the

Carolina Parakeet that is extinct.

The Discovery Center also invites you to help decorate our tree for the holidays in the lobby. From Nov 21 – Dec 19, stop by and make holiday ornaments using materials from the beauty and

bounty of nature. Outdoors or indoors, MDC connects people with nature so you can explore what nature provides.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All facilities will be closed for these state holidays:

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26

Christmas, Friday, December 25

Burr Oak Woods and Discovery Center will also be closed

Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11

What do Animals Eat During Winter?

December 5 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Winter is the season when plants and trees slow down and don't produce as much food, but there are many Missouri animals that still need to eat. Discover how birds and mammals forage during the winter months and find and eat the many things nature has to offer. We'll also create a wintertime snack you can leave outside for the birds.

Field to Fork: Waterfowl

December 15 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM
Registration and a \$20 per person refundable deposit required (adults)

Spend the evening learning how to cook and prepare wild duck such as mallard and green winged teal. There will be demonstration and hands-on opportunities to clean waterfowl and remove the meat to use in various dishes. Chefs Alex Pope and Matt Kafka of The Local Pig will demonstrate their waterfowl charcuterie. Chefs Rick Mullins of Republica, and Mikey Priolo will teach you how to cook fresh waterfowl meat to bring out the amazingly rich flavors. There will be small plate samples for everyone to try. *Registration begins November 19.*

Holiday Swags

December 19 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Thinking of making the holidays a little greener this season? Nature provides many materials that can be used to make colorful ornaments that provide our trees and homes with seasonal decorations. Explore and experiment with the many material options available right outside the door. Fashion a festive swag to hang using prairie grasses, wild nuts, berries and seeds.

Feathered Friends

December 28–31 · Monday–Thursday
10 AM–3 PM Each Day
Walk-in (all ages)

Birding is at its best during the cold winter months. Come spend a day at the Discovery Center that is for the birds. You will have the opportunity to make a pine cone feeder, learn identification techniques, go on a bird watching hike and more.

Kansas City WildLands 15th Annual Red Cedar Christmas Tree Event

Saturday, December 12, 2015
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Mildale Farm
35250 W 199th St, Edgerton, KS

Kansas City WildLands, in partnership with Johnson County Park & Recreation District, is again offering the public an opportunity to remove invasive red cedars and take them home to decorate for the holidays! When you take home a native cedar tree, you'll not only make your house smell great, you'll be helping restore wild places to their original health.

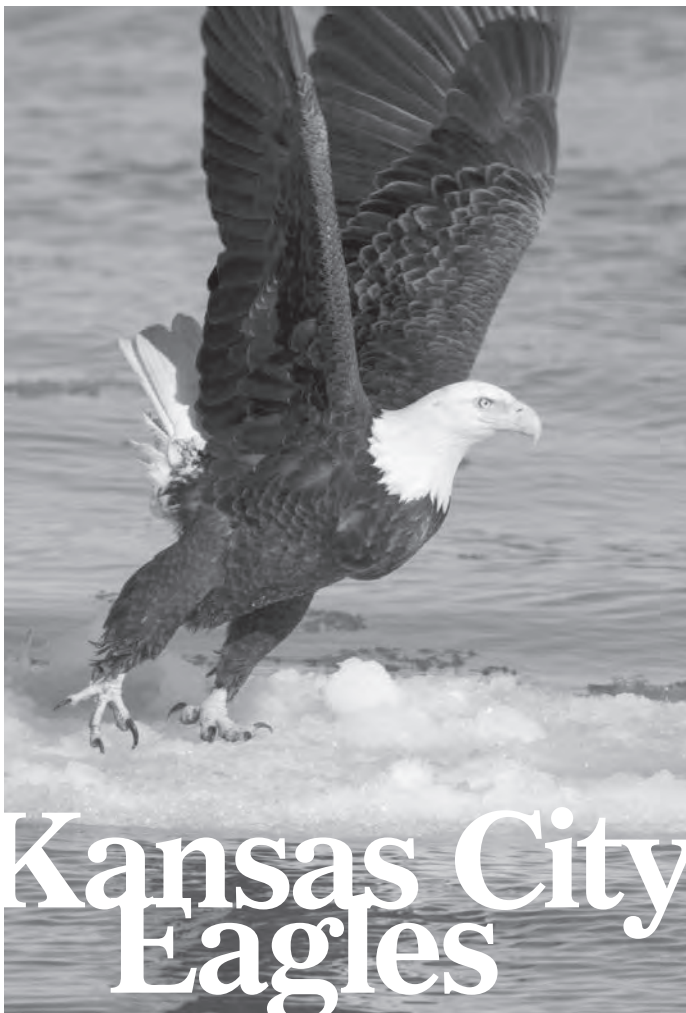
Join us in our second year at the bucolic Mildale Farm. This amazing 22-acre site, which is usually only accessible by reservation, is one of the region's premier venues for weddings, reunions, retreats and other special occasions. Come see its rural charm and make an adventure of it!

The areas we will be focusing on have a wonderful range of tree sizes and shapes, from Charlie Brown Specials to perfect behemoths fit for a Mayor's Christmas Tree, with plenty of household sizes mixed in.

We'll have hay wagons to get you to the trees and get your trees back to your car (how fun is that?!) After you've cut your tree, take a hay ride over to the bon fire and enjoy some hot cider and cookies to warm you up... a fun day in the rural grasslands for all!

Please bring a handsaw (no chainsaws or axes!) and rope to tie your tree to your vehicle. Sturdy boots and work gloves are recommended. Volunteers will be there to help you cut, carry and tie down your tree if needed.

Kansas City WildLands suggests a minimum \$15 donation for each tree, with proceeds benefiting natural community restoration throughout the Greater Kansas City region. For more information, contact Linda Lehrbaum at 816-561-1061.



Kansas City Eagles

It's funny to think about the things that we take for granted. While on vacation this past summer, I found myself in the state of Alaska. For a flat-lander born and raised in the Show-Me state, there is no shortage of sights to see in Alaska. Nonetheless, every time one of our tour guides would see our national bird they would stop whatever it was they were doing. They would then give our tour the opportunity to view the bird as they would tell us some interesting fact about it. To be honest, I grew a bit tired of it. I didn't travel 3,000 miles to see a bald eagle. Each time this occurred I would hear someone remark on what a spectacular sight it was.

Occasionally someone would comment that they had never seen one before. On one occasion I can even recall mumbling under my breath, "How could you have never seen an eagle before,

don't you go outside?"

In that very moment I caught myself taking for granted how fortunate I am. Truth be told, each time we saw an eagle during our vacation, I was among the first to look and the last to look away. Being one of the largest, and arguably the most majestic of all the birds, an eagle seems to have that power over me. Even though I am fortunate to see eagles on a regular basis, I still stop what I am doing to look at each and every one. I still remember the first bald eagle I ever saw. I have a photo of an eagle on my office wall. What is it about the bald eagle that

makes me look? What is it that makes me care?

Though I may not ever know what makes me care, I realize that I am fortunate. Missouri is host to some of the best eagle viewing available in the winter as the eagles follow the migrating flocks of ducks and geese. I get to experience that migration and you can too. Each year the Missouri Department of Conservation hosts a number of Eagle Days events. These events provide all the equipment needed to experience eagle viewing at its finest. Resource interpreters are available to answer questions and provide insights into the lives of the eagles for many events as well. To learn more about Eagle Days or to find the event nearest to you visit www.mdc.mo.gov/node/16598.

— Nathan Woodland
Parma Woods Range Supervisor

Bald Eagles in Kansas City?

Yes! Although still a spectacular sight, viewing bald eagles in the wild is once again becoming a more common occurrence today. Did you know that Missouri is a leader in bald eagle populations within the lower 48 states? Early winter finds them migrating south into Missouri to hunt. In 2012, 2,661 eagles were counted during the annual winter eagle count. The eagles follow the migrating duck and geese and are attracted to the big rivers, lakes and wetlands of our state. Bald eagles find the habitat they need, open water, tall trees for spotting prey along the water's edge and a sheltered place to roost at night. MDC hosts Eagle Day events around the state each year including the all-new Missouri River Eagle Days! Local events are listed below:

Missouri River Eagle Days

LaBenite Park, Sugar Creek, MO
(Just east of MO 291 bridge)

December 12; 11 AM–3 PM

Registration is not required for the live eagle program and discovery stations. All ages are welcome! Call Burr Oak Woods at 816-228-3766 to register for boat viewing on the Missouri River. Ages 8–17 must be accompanied by an adult on the boat.

Join us for a once in a lifetime experience as we bundle up on the Habitat Barge and launch into the magnificent Missouri River for a chance to view bald eagles in their own habitat. Your family will love to visit the Eagle Discovery Stations and the Live Eagle Programs presented by the Dickerson Park Zoo from Springfield, MO. Don't miss out on this unique experience to learn more about one of America's greatest natural wonders and these magnificent raptors that call it home.

Squaw Creek Eagle Days

School Day: December 4; starts between 9 and 10:30 AM; Grades 4-8 Contact 660-646- 6122

Public event: December 5 from 9 AM–4 PM

December 6 from 10 AM–4 PM

Includes visitor center eagle displays, live eagle programs, an eagle viewing station and auto tour. For information contact 660-442-5754.

Smithville Lake Eagle Days

January 9 from 9 AM–3:30 PM

January 10 from 10:30 AM–3:30 PM

Includes live predatory bird program, kid's crafts and eagle viewing stations.

For information contact 816-532-0174.

Don't miss Missouri River Eagle Days • December 12